



Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services

Articles of Interest

August 2022



RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

1. [Army's top general vows not to lower recruiting standards despite trouble finding new soldiers](#)
(28 Jul) *Military.com*, By Steve Beynon
The Army's top general is vowing not to lower the service's standards despite a recruiting crisis reaching a head with a shrinking pool of young Americans eligible to serve and difficulty enticing new soldiers.
2. [Army may restructure brigade combat teams amid recruiting woes](#)
(29 Jul) *Army Times*, By Davis Winkie
As the Army rolls toward a major end strength shortfall driven by a recruiting crisis, the service has been quietly studying where it can afford to cut personnel to ensure its combat formations stay manned even as numbers plunge, its top general told reporters Thursday.
3. [Coast Guard wants better internet on its ships, and more recruits](#)
(1 Aug) *Defense One*, By Lauren C. Williams
Commandant Fagan ties increased connectivity to operational needs and improving Coasties' quality of life.
4. [Space Force's Towberman plants the seeds of partnership, talks talent management](#)
(2 Aug) *Air Force Magazine*, By Abraham Mahshie
When enlisted leaders from 65 nations gathered in a hotel ballroom to hear how the Space Force built an enlisted corps, seemingly few could apply the lessons. Most of their militaries didn't have the equivalent of a Space Force.
5. [The best and the worst Air Force recruiting slogans of all time](#)
(2 Aug) *We Are The Mighty*, By Blake Stilwell
The U.S. Air Force has had many recruiting slogans, used at various times to varying effect. The current Air Force slogan "Aim High, Fly-Fight-Win" is no "We're Looking For A Few Good Men" or "The Few The Proud, The Marines." But yet the USAF continues its effort to come up with something as sticky as "Semper Fi."
6. [Can a fitness app ease the military's recruitment crisis?](#)
(3 Aug) *Defense One*, By Patrick Tucker
Amid a major recruiting shortage across the military, a Navy pilot program would allow sailors who join the delayed entry program to better track their fitness goals as they prepare for boot camp. Some early indicators suggest it could make a big difference getting people who express interest in service into active duty.
7. [Are politics damaging US military recruiting?](#)
(4 Aug) *Wall Street Journal*, By Staff
Making the armed forces 'inclusive' gets it backward.
8. [Navy establishes Recruiting Reserve Command as services struggle with quotas](#)
(5 Aug) *Navy Times*, By Diana Stancy Correll
The Navy has stood up Navy Recruiting Reserve Command, a move that comes as the armed services struggle with recruiting numbers this fiscal year.



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9. [Consider bringing prospective recruits to transition counseling](#)
(5 Aug) Army Times, By Capt. Ronald R. Medina, Jr.
If the military's initial reaction is to view the current accessions problem as a recruiting issue then it is already failing. This is an industrial model and car dealership mentality, admitting that the military is fixated on numbers and only caring about getting people "through the door." This is a perception problem and the military's inability to perceive itself. Lack of desire to serve may seem to be a national issue beyond the military's span of control, but by failing to look internally at ways to address this perception, the military will ultimately lose control of the narrative.
 10. [The Navy wants to help pay off student debt to get new recruits](#)
(7 Aug) Task & Purpose, By Nicholas Slayton
There's also a \$50,000 enlistment bonus for people who ship out quickly.
 11. [Military recruitment woes endanger national security](#)
(8 Aug) Bloomberg, By
Keeping seasoned service members in uniform while harnessing the promise of new technologies can help the US overcome its recruiting challenges without sacrificing the military's core strengths.
 12. [How more Marvel movies might get more people to join the Air Force](#)
(8 Aug) Task & Purpose, By David Roza
Look up any military news publication these days and you'll find that recruiters across the military are struggling to get enough people to sign a contract. That problem extends to the Air Force, which is now offering up-to \$60,000 bonuses for recruits in specialties to help sooth what branch recruiting head Maj. Gen. Ed Thomas says has been the toughest year for recruiters since 1999.
 13. [New Army recruiting ad continues crusade against civilian workforce](#)
(9 Aug) Military Times, By
Are you worried about having to wear a suit, fetch coffee and make copies in your first job post-graduation?
 14. [Fixing Army recruiting: Take care of the soldiers and their families](#)
(9 Aug) Defense One, By John Ferrari and James Mismash
Rather than read the Army's recent call-to-arms memo, service leaders should focus on the recent Military Family Support Survey.
 15. [Navy offers future sailors, veterans up to \\$115,000 in enlistment, loan repayment incentives](#)
(11 Aug) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
Future sailors and veterans who agree to re-up can combine the maximum enlistment bonus with a maximum student loan repayment — to cap out at \$115,000 — provided they enlist or reassess into active duty and can ship out before the end of September.
 16. [The Army has so far recruited about half the soldiers it hoped for fiscal 2022](#)
(11 Aug) NBC News, By Courtney Kube and Mosheh Gains
With weeks left in the fiscal year, Secretary Christine Wormuth said the Army has recruited about 52% of its goal and will likely wind up short by as many as 15,000 recruits.



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17. [Top Gun' boosted recruiting and brought the Tailhook scandal. So what happens after the blockbuster sequel?](#)
(11 Aug) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly
When "Top Gun: Maverick" premiered earlier this summer, it quickly rode on massive waves of nostalgia and patriotism to historic box-office ticket sales surpassing those of its 1986 predecessor.
18. [Learning from past blunders is crucial for a new Army program](#)
(11 Aug) Washington Post, By Kyle Longley
How the military branch can avoid repeating mistakes that marred a Vietnam-era program to help recruits who didn't meet basic standards
19. [Navy rolls out retention programs for submarine commanders, senior enlisted sailors](#)
(12 Aug) USNI News, By Heather Mongilio
A new Navy program will offer \$20,000 per year to members of the submarine community in a bid to increase retention.
20. [Recruitment is now a real threat to a frail force facing formidable foes](#)
(12 Aug) Breaking Defense, By Mackenzie Eaglen
Challenges to military recruitment aren't new, but over the last year military leaders have begun to really sound the alarm bells. In this op-ed, Mackenzie Eaglen of the American Enterprise Institute makes the case that the issue has now grown to be an existential one, and argues that changes are going to have to happen for end-strength to remain at acceptable levels.
21. [The Army wants you to skip 'entry-level' civilian jobs and be an officer instead](#)
(15 Aug) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky
The Army's latest marketing campaign is simple: Why sit at a boring desk job where no one listens to you when you could be calling the shots in uniform?
22. [The retention dilemma will not be solved by early officer promotions](#)
(16 Aug) Military Times, By Capt. Brianna Dow
While the recent commentary by Maj. Kevin Rossillon identifies some of the issues facing the Air Force, offering early promotions without overhauling the officer career development system will not be enough to drive meaningful change. Allowing high performing officers to promote early merely serves as a Band-Aid that fails to address the root cause of the officer retention problem.
23. [Revive the Army's Early Commissioning Program](#)
(18 Aug) Army Times, By Ian Whitfield
The U.S. military is facing serious complications with recruiting. All six military branches reported struggles meeting recruiting goals for fiscal year 2022.
24. [Applications to service academies plummet amid recruitment and pandemic woes](#)
(19 Aug) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly
Applications to the service academies dropped significantly this past year -- ranging from 10% to nearly 30% -- as the military continues to grapple with recruitment woes amid a national dip in college enrollment across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic.



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25. [**The Army is giving ineligible recruits a second chance**](#)
(19 Aug) NewsNation, By Paula Froelich, Joshua Eferighe, Evan Lambert, and Nichole Berlie
Army recruits at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, may appear to be going through the motions of most beginner soldiers, but they're part of a slightly different crop.
 26. [**Marines are using virtual reality pugil sticks to recruit the next generation**](#)
(22 Aug) Task & Purpose, By Jeff Schogol
The pugil stick simulator is part of Marine recruiting events that also include ammo can lifts and pull-ups.
 27. [**Military faces generational challenges as it struggles to meet recruiting targets**](#)
(23 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Rose L. Thayer
The Air Force, Navy and Marines say they expect to meet their targets but describe this fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, as among the most difficult since the end of the draft in 1973.
 28. [**Veterans may be key to solving the US military recruitment crisis**](#)
(23 Aug) Military Times, By Col. Matthew F. Amidon
Only 9% of Americans eligible to serve in the military said they would consider military service, according to a Defense Department survey.
 29. [**This Gen-Z value could spell trouble for Spec Ops community**](#)
(24 Aug) Defense One, By Elizabeth Howe
CNA looked at the leadership traits valued by today's youth, special operators, and strategists of tomorrow.
 30. [**Some DoD policies are friendly fire in the war for talent**](#)
(24 Aug) Military Times, By Allison Abbe
Some Defense Department policies create a divide between service members and civilians, potentially hindering recruiting opportunities.
 31. [**Recruiting is hard. These YouTubers may have cracked the code**](#)
(25 Aug) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen
Airmen who have amassed followings on YouTube say the military doesn't understand how to meet Generation Z and Millennials where they are: online.
 32. [**Army program gives poor-performing recruits a second chance**](#)
(28 Aug) The Associated Press, By Lolita C. Baldor
The program, which began in early August, is one way the Army is hoping to fill the ranks as it struggles with recruiting efforts that are expected to fall dramatically short of the goals this year.
 33. [**Marine Reserve wants more officer diversity from new enlisted program**](#)
(29 Aug) Marine Corps Times, By Todd South
The Marine Corps has the lowest percentage of female members: 9% as compared with 19% in the Army and Navy and 21% in the Air Force, as of 2018 data. Within the Marine officer ranks, 16% are female, according to the report.



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34. [Air Force leaders set new goals to diversify officer corps](#)

(30 Aug) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen

The directive aims to create a “force more representative of our nation,” the memo said. As for gender, it wants an officer applicant pool that is 64% men and 36% women. That aims to slightly even the split from the 2014 goal of 70% men to 30% women. As of June, just 23% of active duty Air Force and Space Force officers were women, according to the Air Force Personnel Center.

35. [Air Force recruiters receive pay cut as service scrambles to meet end of year goals](#)

(30 Aug) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly

Air Force recruiters are about to be hit with a pay cut even as the service struggles to get new airmen into the ranks and leadership cautions that recruitment may be a long-term problem for the military as a whole.

EMPLOYMENT & INTEGRATION

36. [Hundreds of Air Force training planes grounded over ejection seat concerns](#)

(28 Jul) Air Force Times, By Rachel S. Cohen

The Air Force is temporarily grounding nearly 300 trainer aircraft over concerns that their ejection seats may not fire correctly when needed, Air Force Times has learned.

37. [The Space Force is scrapping the annual fitness test in favor of wearable trackers](#)

(2 Aug) NPR, By Eric Schmid

Annual physical fitness tests are a cornerstone of military life. Each service has its own take on the once-a-year assessment required by the Department of Defense.

38. [The Army is working on a tactical bra](#)

(3 Aug) Military Times, By Sarah Sicard

Uniforms have largely been designed for the boys, but the Army is working on something for the girls’ ... well ... girls.

39. [Did an airman offer a bribe to pass fitness test? Ramstein officials investigating](#)

(5 Aug) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly

Officials at Ramstein Air Base in Germany are investigating a claim that a Security Forces airman bribed their way to a passing score on their annual physical fitness test.

40. [Space Force's wearable fitness tech plan may have punitive consequences after all](#)

(8 Aug) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly

Fears that the Space Force's new fitness program will lead to micromanagement and punishment for not working out enough, as well as create a risk that personal data will be used against Guardians, are circling the service's developing plans to use wearable health trackers.

41. [Corps Will Stop Punishing Marines Based on Tape Test, Start Using Modern Scanners to Measure Body Fat](#)

(23 Aug) Military.com, By Konstantin Toropin

The Marine Corps has announced that it is changing the way it determines the body composition of its Marines, becoming the first military branch to move away from the traditional tape test in favor of more accurate methods.



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42. [**This West Point coach-turned-infantry officer just finished Ranger School**](#)
(25 Aug) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky
It's not totally uncommon to have a career change in your 20s. Maybe you realize the field you got a degree in isn't what you expected. Perhaps you find something that pays way better. Or maybe you realize that while coaching college sports is fantastic, wouldn't it be great to become a Ranger-qualified Army infantry officer? 1st Lt. Brianna Strecker knows the feeling.
 43. [**First female Sapper Leader Course instructor paves the way for others**](#)
(24 Aug) Fort Leonard Wood Public Affairs Office, By Amanda Sullivan
Sapper Leader Course instructor Staff Sgt. Ariana Sanchez never set out to make history or be the example she is today. For her, Sanchez said being a female has no bearing on her skills as a Soldier in any capacity. Still, for some throughout her career, her gender cast doubt upon her abilities to achieve her goals. She found motivation in their skepticism.
 44. [**Avoiding empty cockpits: Addressing the Air Force's pilot shortage problem**](#)
(25 Aug) Breaking Defense, By Bradley Bowman and Maj. Brian Leitzke
Fielding the best aircraft in the world won't matter if the Air Force can't retain enough well-trained pilots to fly them, argue FDD's Bradley Bowman and Maj. Brian Leitzke.
 45. [**Death in Navy SEAL training exposes a culture of brutality, cheating and drugs**](#)
(30 Aug) New York Times, By Dave Phillips
The elite force's selection course is so punishing that few make it through, and many of those who do resort to illicit tactics.

WELL-BEING & TREATMENT

46. [**An Army spouse is taking on the military's vast child-care deserts**](#)
(n.d.) Military.com, By Blake Stilwell
There are one million military spouses keeping the home fires burning for American service members, as of 2020. While each has their own stories and struggles, many of them will experience similar hardships. Frequent relocations and deployments not only mean time away from their loved one, but also limit the spouse's employment opportunities.
47. [**Women's Health Care in DOD Unchanged by Supreme Court Decision**](#)
(29 Jul) DoD News, By Todd Lopez
While last month's Supreme Court opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* means each state now makes its own laws regarding abortion services, the health care that the Defense Department provides to service members has not changed, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness said.
48. [**Service members, military doctors detail obstacles to abortion access**](#)
(29 Jul) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
A month after the Supreme Court overturned the federal right to abortion access, the Defense Department and service members are still trying to pin down what it means for troops and their families.
49. [**The Marine Corps wants to develop media literacy training. It won't be easy**](#)
(1 Aug) Marine Corps Times, By Hope Hodge Seck
While no other service has a formalized media literacy training program, officials noted that this initiative was not completely out of the blue.



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50. [AMC Commander directs maximized privacy for pregnant Airmen](#)
(3 Aug) Air Mobility Command Public Affairs
This change follows new efforts by the Department of the Air Force Women's Initiatives Team to mask pregnancies at the unit level to remove current and potential barriers affecting Airmen during pregnancy. Removal of these barriers is part of a broader Airmen readiness effort to minimize stigma surrounding pregnancy.
 51. [Air Force pilot program centralizes resources for sexual assault, harassment survivors](#)
(4 Aug) Air Force Magazine, By Greg Hadley
The Department of the Air Force launched a pilot program Aug. 1 to centralize resources for survivors of sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic abuse, and other forms of "interpersonal violence."
 52. [Air Force launches program to help sexual assault, harassment survivors at 7 bases](#)
(8 Aug) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly
The Air Force is launching a new pilot program that will put resources for survivors of domestic abuse, stalking, cyber bullying and sexual assault in one central base office to make reporting and finding support easier.
 53. [Military sexual assault survivors should be able to sue for damages, judges rule](#)
(11 Aug) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
An ongoing lawsuit against the former vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff caught a big break Thursday when a panel of judges ruled that the general's former aide, who has accused him of sexual assault during her time working with him, does in fact have the right to sue him for damages.
 54. [Air Mobility Command to give pregnant airmen more privacy under new directive](#)
(11 Aug) Air Force Times, By Staff
Pregnant airmen assigned to Air Mobility Command will now have more information privacy during their pregnancy as part of a new directive by AMC Commander Gen. Mike Minihan.
 55. [Army schoolhouses dive into new social media trainings](#)
(11 Aug) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
War and military life are increasingly public affairs, both overseas and in garrison.
 56. [DoD attempts to answer your questions about post-Roe abortion access](#)
(12 Aug) Military Times, By Meghann Myers
It's been six weeks since the Supreme Court decided to eliminate federally guaranteed access to abortion.
 57. [Air Force tests a new way to help survivors of violence, harassment](#)
(12 Aug) Air Force Times, By Zamone Perez
The Department of the Air Force has implemented a pilot program to measure the effectiveness of a new, more holistic approach to assisting survivors of sexual harassment and sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking and cyber harassment.
 58. [Could access to abortion services change where the military stations troops?](#)
(13 Aug) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly
It's unlikely that the Dobbs decision will cause a major shift in future bases away from the South, where some of the nation's more restrictive abortion laws and measures are on the books.



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59. [He was accused of sexual assault, she of using drugs. The military dealt with them very differently.](#)
(15 Aug) ProPublica, By Ren Larson, Vianna Davila and Lexi Churchill
Comparing the cases of Pvt. Olivia Ochoa and Pfc. Christian Alvarado provides a striking example of Army commanders' uneven use of pretrial confinement.
60. [Free drill weekend childcare pilot coming for Guard soldiers](#)
(16 Aug) Army Times, By Davis Winkie
Army National Guard troops across six states will soon have a new option for securing childcare for drill weekends, according to a National Guard Bureau memorandum obtained by Army Times.
61. [Maternity uniforms for soldiers and airmen expected to be available for purchase again soon amid supply woes](#)
(23 Aug) Military.com, By Steve Beynon
Army and Air Force maternity uniforms are expected to be back in stock at Exchange stores and online within about a month after demand that surpassed expectations left shelves empty for months.
62. [Patient found crying on side of road after Fort Bragg counselor's assault, feds say](#)
(25 Aug) Charlotte Observer, By Julia Marnin
A 20-year-old patient was found crying on the side of the road after being assaulted by a Fort Bragg substance abuse counselor, federal prosecutors say.
63. [On abortion, American service women deserve better](#)
(25 Aug) Military Times, By Zej Moczydlowski
"DoD still hasn't addressed the concerns service members have about the Supreme Court's abortion decision."
64. [DoD Announces Appointments to the Defense Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct](#)
(26 Aug) IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III has appointed 14 members to the Defense Advisory Committee for the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct.
65. [Nursing airmen getting new pumping rooms as Air Force looks to clear obstacles for serving parents](#)
(29 Aug) Military.com, By Thomas Novelly
Nursing moms serving in the Air Force will have more places to pump after three bases announced new lactation rooms, just the latest salvo in the service's efforts to accommodate women who have children while in uniform.

SERVICEWOMEN IN THE NEWS

66. [Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing gets first female commander](#)
(7 Aug) Sioux City Journal, By Jared McNett
Twenty-nine years and one day after she first enlisted with the U.S. armed forces, Col. Sonya Morrison obtained the highest rank of her career on Saturday when she was officially installed as the first female commander of the Iowa Air National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing in Sioux City.



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67. [**Navy captain breaks glass ceiling as first female boss of Seal Beach base**](#)
(10 Aug) Los Angeles Times, By Daniel Langhorne
Capt. Jessica O'Brien has nearly 25 years of service as a naval officer and recently took the helm of Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach.
 68. [**First woman to command aircraft carrier recounts milestone deployment**](#)
(11 Aug) The Orange County Register, By Erika I. Ritchie
Navy Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt has now completed her first mission as the first woman to command a U.S. aircraft carrier.
 69. [**Family of murdered Fort Hood soldier Vanessa Guillen files \\$35M lawsuit against US Army**](#)
(14 Aug) Fox News, By Danielle Wallace
Vanessa Guillen's family seeking damages for sexual harassment, abuse, assault, rape, sodomy and wrongful death.
 70. [**This officer is the first woman to lead Naval Test Wing Atlantic**](#)
(16 Aug) Navy Times, By Diana Stancy Correll
Capt. Elizabeth Somerville, an EA-6B Prowler and EA-18G Growler naval flight officer, took command of the wing Aug. 11 during a ceremony at Naval Air Station Patuxent River in Maryland.
 71. [**An interview with the first American woman to walk in space**](#)
(16 Aug) Military Officers Association of America, By Kimberly Bruce
Very few people get to travel into space. Even fewer get to explore the deepest parts of the sea. But Capt. Kathryn Sullivan, USNR (Ret), has done both.
 72. [**Marine astronaut to lead NASA mission to International Space Station**](#)
(18 Aug) Marine Corps Times, By Jonathan Lehrfeld
Becoming a Marine is no small feat, so becoming a Marine turned astronaut might simply sound out of this world.
 73. [**Minnesota National Guard's first female general retiring**](#)
(22 Aug) Star Tribune, By Reid Forgrave
Air Force Brig. Gen. Sandy Best, who is the assistant adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard, is retiring after 38 years of service.
 74. [**17-year-old soldier, serving with twin sister, dies after collapsing at Fort Jackson**](#)
(28 Aug) New York Daily News, By Muri Assunção
A 17-year-old Pennsylvania Army National Guard died after collapsing during physical training at Fort Jackson in South Carolina. Pvt. Alyssa Cahoon was training with her twin sister for the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. She collapsed on Aug. 20 during a training exercise.

WOMEN VETERANS

75. [**'This is cool. This is nice': How this Army National Guard veteran grew to love running**](#)
(n.d.) Military.com, By Anastacia Marx de Salcedo
Zaida Espinoza, an Army National Guard veteran, discusses how she used running to help her transition to civilian life after her deployment.



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76. [McDonough sidesteps calls for VA to provide abortion services at medical centers](#)
(1 Aug) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough on Sunday would not back calls to provide abortions at department medical centers even as he pledged to find ways to ensure women veterans have access to the services regardless of where they live.
 77. [Oldest living member of historic WWII battalion of Black women receives Congressional Gold Medal](#)
(3 Aug) Task & Purpose, By Haley Britzky
The oldest living member of a trailblazing World War II battalion of Black women has been awarded Congress' highest honor for civilians.
 78. [Woman who posed as Marine veteran with cancer admits \\$250K fraud](#)
(10 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Alexander Riedel
A Rhode Island woman who passed herself off as a decorated Marine Corps veteran and cancer patient to obtain more than a quarter of a million dollars in veterans benefits and charitable donations pleaded guilty Tuesday.
 79. [House VA committee forms subcommittee to focus on reproductive health care](#)
(18 Aug) Stars & Stripes, By Sara Samora
The House Veterans Affairs Committee announced on Thursday it had formed a subcommittee that will focus on veterans' reproductive health care.
 80. [Amid abortion fight, House Democrats want to hear from veterans on reproductive health care](#)
(19 Aug) Military.com, By Rebecca Kheel
House Democrats are gathering feedback from veterans on reproductive health care at the Department of Veterans Affairs in the latest congressional salvo on abortion rights.
 81. [Commander of veterans organization faked being in the military, feds say](#)
(19 Aug) The Charlotte Observer, By Emmalyse Brownstein
A woman who led a veteran service organization in Georgia has been charged with misrepresenting herself, state authorities said.
 82. [Study to examine reasons for infertility among recent war veterans](#)
(23 Aug) Military Times, By Leo Shane III
Researchers on Tuesday announced plans for a new study to discover reasons why veterans from the recent wars are more likely to struggle with infertility than their civilian peers.